

## REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.112, and in light of the remarks which follow.

Claims 20-32 and 34-38 are pending in the application, Claim 33 having been canceled above.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and for indicating that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received. Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 20-32 and 34-37 are allowed. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims in the application are in condition for allowance.

By the above amendments, Applicants amended the specification to include the heading "Brief Description of the Drawings" and replaced the Abstract with the attached substitute Abstract. Applicants also amended the claims by canceling Claim 33 to address the claim objection and amending Claims 20, 34 and 37 to address various informalities. In addition, Applicants amended Claim 38 to address the § 112 issue. A claim that has been amended in a manner that does not narrow the claim's scope should be accorded its full range of equivalents.

Turning now to the Official Action, the specification stands objected to for not including the heading "Brief Description of the Drawings." In order to obviate the objection, Applicants added the requested section heading at Page 18, line 3 of the specification.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claim 33 stands objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form. Specifically, the Official Action states that step f) of the independent claim already includes a step of regenerating the catalyst.

In order to obviate the rejection, Applicants canceled Claim 33 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants also amended Claim 34, which was dependent on canceled Claim 33, to depend from Claim 20 and reference the regeneration step f) recited therein.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 33 are respectfully requested.

Claim 38 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. For at least the reasons that follow, withdrawal of the rejection is in order.

Claim 38 is rejected under § 112 for not providing antecedent basis for the term "polynitrile." In order to obviate the rejection, Applicants amended Claim 38 to read, in part, ". . .wherein the compound being hydrogenated is adiponitrile."

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claim 38.

From the foregoing, Applicants earnestly solicit further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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